

CURTIS--BANNING

Eliza Banning Curtis was born in Reading, England, October 19, 1801. Came to this country 1818. Was baptized in the Oliver St. Baptist Church in New York City by Rev. John Williams, 1819. Married to Rev. Henry Curtis, March 13, 1824. Died at Aldenville, Pa., May 26, 1879. She was the mother of eight children. Right after their marriage, Rev. and Mrs. Curtis moved to Conklin, Broome Co., N. Y., and settled on a fine farm he had purchased with funds furnished by his father, Henry Curtis, Sr. They lived in a house, part log and part frame, which was already on the place and in which she said in her later years, she passed some of the happiest days of her life. Rev. Henry Curtis preached here and for the church at Windsor for nine years. In the autumn of 1822 he received a call from the church in Bethany, Wayne County, Pa., to become their pastor. He accepted the call, sold his farm, moved his family consisting then of wife and three children (leaving one little girl beneath the sod), and purchased a home in the above-mentioned town which was then the County Seat, and commenced his work there as pastor. The family lived there for thirteen years, when with a family of six children, four sons and two daughters. The father thought it best for the welfare of the family to purchase a farm. Accordingly he purchased one pleasantly located on the west branch of the Lackawaxen, some three and one-half miles west of Bethany, of an old gentleman by the name of Seth Hayden. He was then pastor of the Clinton and Damascus churches. He continued to live here and preach for various churches until his last illness, his death occurring August 13, 1867, in the 67th year of his life. The following obituary in regard to him appeared in the minutes of the Abington Baptist Association the fall following his death:

"The great loss of the Association during the year is that made by the death of our much esteemed and greatly loved brother, Rev. Henry Curtis, who departed this life at his residence near Aldenville. Most of the letters from the churches refer to his death in the most appreciating and affectionate terms. Several of the smaller churches whom he so recently and faithfully watched over and so earnestly labored with feel that their loss is an irreparable one. Brother Curtis was born in Illston, Leicestershire, England, October 11, 1800. He was the youngest of twelve children, and bore his father's name. The family was associated with the Independents or Congregationalists, and his mother was a devoted member of the denomination. It was through her zealous and pious efforts, and in answer to her fervent